

Study Asked of Role of County Public Defender

By KENNETH HAHN
County Supervisor

Is the county Public Defender "over-defending?" Some judges think so, and at their request I have asked for a complete study of the matter.

Judge Charles T. Smith, Long Beach, chairman of the Municipal Court Judges Association of Los Angeles County, reports many members of his association have "expressed great dissatisfaction concerning the manner

in which the Public Defender handled criminal matters."

They were concerned because deputy public defenders "rarely, if ever," pleaded a defendant guilty at the preliminary hearing, although this was frequently done by private counsel.

USING a study made in Long Beach courts as the basis for a countywide estimate, Judge Smith estimates this practice costs the taxpayer

approximately a quarter of a million dollars a year in transcripts alone, "much of which could be eliminated by guilty pleas in the municipal courts," he says.

Judges also feel, according to Judge Smith, the defendant who is regularly employed in a good-paying position, who is at liberty on substantial bail, should not be represented by the Public Defender. I agree with this point.

Attorney Don F. Clark of

Westchester also wrote to me about this situation.

"IT DISTURBS me," Clark said, "that there is no standard or guideline limiting individual Deputy Public Defenders to representation of defendants who are truly 'indigent.'"

Public Defender Richard Buckley and his deputies are good and able lawyers, and I'm glad we live in a country where every person has a

right to the services of an attorney, even if he cannot afford to pay for it.

The right to fair trial and advice of counsel is basic to Democracy.

STILL, we must have economy at every level of government—executive, legislative, and judicial—and that's why I've asked the Chief Administrative Officer to investigate and determine if the complaints are justified.

Attorney Clark concluded his letter to me with a statement which is personally satisfying

"I am, he said, "bringing this matter specifically to your attention, rather than someone else's because . . . you have at all times evidenced an abiding interest in keeping taxes down in the county, and because you have the reputation of being the ombudsman for the people's cause."

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Navyman Will Vote For Hahn

Navy Seaman James M. Youngs turned 21 on the Island of Guam last month and promised to "cast my first vote for Supervisor Kenneth Hahn."

The young man, son of Mr. and Mrs. William M. Youngs of Inglewood, is a graduate of Morningside High School and a former Pepperdine College student. He served on the Los Angeles County Commission on Youth before enlisting in the Navy 14 months ago.

Prior to his birthday April 15, Youngs made arrangements to register by mail for the June 4 election and to cast an absentee ballot.

"I don't know yet who else I'll vote for," he wrote his parents, "but my first X will be marked for Kenneth Hahn. I learned while serving on the Youth Commission how concerned he is with the problems of young people and with all his other responsibilities. This is one man I know I can intelligently support."

Barrier To Replace Chain Link

A reinforced concrete barrier will replace the present cable-and-chain link fence in the median of the Harbor Freeway between 94th Street and 135th Street in late 1968, the State Division of Highways reported.

The new barrier, 34 inches high and topped with a 24-inch shield to deflect opposing headlight glare, will be installed on a three-mile section which carries up to 135,000 vehicles daily.

North of the concrete barrier section, between 94th Street and 12th Street, cable-and-chain link fence will be replaced by a double blocked-out metal beam barrier, also to be topped with a 24-inch glare shield.

Assembly Okays College Plans

SACRAMENTO — The assembly has approved and sent to the senate AB19 by Assemblyman Vincent Thomas (D-San Pedro) which will permit the new state college at Dominguez Hills to offer courses in development and utilization of ocean resources on an economical basis.

The bill originally included an appropriation for the courses but this had been removed. The bill went to the senate for its consideration.



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WINE VINEGAR 29¢ **27¢**
CHILI CON CARNE 85¢ **69¢**
JUMBO TAMALES 45¢ **37¢**
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SPAM 59¢ **51¢**
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FRUIT DRINKS 30¢ **27¢**
DOW CLEANER 79¢ **63¢**
AJAX WINDOW CLEANER 59¢ **49¢**
JOY LIQUID 85¢ **70¢**
DREFT DETERGENT 83¢ **71¢**
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FRESH FRYERS

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LAUNDRY DETERGENT 69¢
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